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AppTestimony
HB 6825, Section 5 and SB 946, Section 29(b)

Dear Sir / Madam,

We am writing to express our OPPOSITION to the following:

- diversion of \$15.2 million from the Community Investment Act as proposed in Section 5 of HB 6825, the Governor's Deficiency Bill, removing \$10 million from DEEP's open space grants program for this fiscal year
- complete sweep of all CIA funds from January 1, 2016 through the end of the current budget cycle on June 30, 2017, as incorporated in the Governor's Budget Proposal (SB 946, Section 29(b))

The CIA was established as a dedicated revenue source, outside of the budget. It is funded not through tax dollars, but through a \$40 surcharge on local recording fees, and has invested over \$133 million for 1,100 projects across all four sectors in 168 Connecticut towns. This provides consistent funding for reinvestment into our communities for many purposes that benefit all citizens of Connecticut: open space, farmland/dairy support, historic properties, and affordable housing programs. These projects contribute to the quality of life in our state, providing recreational opportunities, ensuring that agriculture remains viable, preserving our history and providing decent housing.

Respectfully submitted,
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